

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7440
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1648

DEPT FOR EUR/SOV (EDGAR)
USDOC FOR BEWT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEWT/PDIP, UR
SUBJECT: UPDK REPORTEDLY ABOUT TO TERMINATE EMPLOYMENT OF USCO
COMMERCIAL ASSISTANT

REFS: (A) 77 STATE 304491 (B) MOSCOW 18135 (C) 77 MOSCOW 11492
(D) 77 STATE 179508

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM COMMERCIAL OFFICE'S FSL
COMMERCIAL ASSISTANT HERSELF, THAT UPDK HAS INFORMED
HER THAT HER EMPLOYMENT WITH COMMERCIAL OFFICE WILL
BE UNILATERALLY TERMINATED BY THAT AGENCY IN NEAR
FUTURE. TATIANA AFONINA (FSL-3) TOLD DEPUTY
DIRECTOR USCO IN CONFIDENCE ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO THAT
SHE HAD BEEN CALLED TO UPDK AND TOLD TO SIGN A LETTER
DRAFTED FOR HER SIGNATURE IN WHICH IT WAS STATED
THAT AFONINA HAD REQUESTED UPDK TO FIND HER ANOTHER
JOB FOR REASONS OF HEALTH. SINCE AFONINA SAYS SHE
WAS GIVEN NO CHOICE, SHE SIGNED LETTER AND IS
NOW AWAITING WORD FROM UPDK THAT SHE HAS BEEN
REASSIGNED ELSEWHERE IN WESTERN BUSINESS
COMMUNITY. ACCORDING TO AFONINA, SHE HAS BEEN
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TOLD BY UPDK THAT HER NEW JOB, WHATEVER IT IS,
WILL BE LOCATED IN NEITHER A DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISH-
MENT NOR IN AN OFFICE OF U.S. FIRM IN MOSCOW. HER
HORIZONS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN LIMITED HENCEFORWARD
TO WORKING IN OFFICE OF NON-U.S. COMMERCIAL
ESTABLISHMENT.

2. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE FROM REFTELS, AFONINA'S CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT IN USCO FIRST CAME UNDER QUESTION WHEN ECON/COMM COUNSELOR RECEIVED A LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 9, 1977, FROM DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF UPDK, D. PAROYATNIKOV, WHO REFUSED (FOR SECOND TIME) TO PERMIT AFONINA TO TRAVEL TO WARSAW FOR FSL REGIONAL CONFERENCE (OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 4, 1977). PAROYATNIKOV HAD EARLIER TURNED DOWN EMBASSY WRITTEN REQUEST OF MAY 16, 1977, SEEKING UPDK'S CONCURRENCE IN OUR PLANS TO SEND AFONINA TO ATTEND WARSAW SEMINAR. IT WAS IN RESPONSE TO THIS INITIAL TURN-DOWN AND AT DEPMIN FOREIGN TRADE MANZHULO'S SUGGESTION TO ECON/COMM COUNSELOR DURING OUR MEETING WITH HIM LAST SEPTEMBER THAT AN APPEAL WAS SENT TO DIRECTOR OF UPDK, V. N. KUZNETSOV, ON OCTOBER 4, 1977. PAROYATNIKOV'S LETTER OF NOVEMBER 9 (WRITTEN FIVE DAYS AFTER WARSAW SEMINAR CLOSED) WAS IN RESPONSE TO OUR LETTER TO KUZNETSOV. WHEREAS IN HIS JUNE 30 LETTER PAROYATNIKOV HAD HELD HIMSELF TO A SIMPLE REFUSAL ON GROUNDS THAT "UPDK SENDS SOVIET EMPLOYEES TO DIPLOMATIC AND OTHER REPRESENTATIONS ONLY FOR WORK IN THE CITY OF MOSCOW...", IN HIS SECOND LETTER HE REPEATED THIS SAME PHRASEOLOGY AND EXPANDED ON IT BY ADDING ANOTHER SENTENCE, TO
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WIT: "IF THE EMBASSY IS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE QUALIFICATIONS OF ITS SOVIET EMPLOYEE, UPDK IS PREPARED TO REVIEW THE QUESTION OF SELECTION FOR HER POSITION OF ANOTHER SPECIALIST WITH COMMERCIAL TRAINING." AS DEPARTMENT AWARE FROM REFTEL (B), BOTH WE AND AFONINA READ THIS AS AN ILL OMEN. IN FACT, SHE TOLD DEPUTY DIRECTOR USCO THAT HE UPDK CONTROLLER SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THAT USCO'S REQUEST FOR HER TO GO TO WARSAW SEMINAR HAD BEEN PURSUED TOO PERSISTENTLY AND "AT TOO HIGH LEVELS" AND HAD LED DIRECTLY TO "NEED" FOR HER TO BE TERMINATED IN HER JOB.

3. COMMENT: IT THUS APPEARS THAT THOSE EE REGIMES WHO ALLOWED OUR EMBASSIES IN EASTERN EUROPE TO SEND THEIR FSL COMMERCIAL ASSISTANTS TO WARSAW SEMINAR ARE MARKEDLY MORE CONFIDENT IN THIS REGARD THAN BIG BROTHER. AS OF DATE OF THIS CABLE, AFONINA IS STILL WORKING IN USCO AND SHOWING NO OUTWARD SIGNS OF LEAVING. SHE TOLD DEPUTY DIRECTOR USCO BEFORE HE DEPARTED ON THREE WEEKS' R&R LAST WEEK, HOWEVER, THAT SHE

WOULD NOT BE HERE WHEN HE GOT BACK IN MID-FEBRUARY.
MATLOCK

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NNN

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